



Department of Justice

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Eastern District of California

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Friday, October 24, 2008
www.usdoj.gov/usao/cae
Docket #: 08-cr-482-LKK

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STOCKTON WOMAN INDICTED FOR FILING FALSE TAX RETURNS ***Former Tax Preparer Arrested Thursday***

SACRAMENTO, Calif.—United States Attorney McGregor W. Scott announced today that VENUS LATRES DAWSON, 31, of Stockton, Calif., was arrested yesterday after a federal grand jury returned a 25-count indictment on October 16, 2008, charging her with filing false claims in the form of federal income tax returns. DAWSON was arraigned yesterday by United States Magistrate Judge Edmund F. Brennan, who released her from custody under the supervision of the Pretrial Services Office and a \$20,000 unsecured bond. Her next court appearance is November 17, 2008, at 1:30 p.m. before United States District Court Judge Lawrence K. Karlton.

This case is the product of an extensive investigation by the Internal Revenue Service, Criminal Investigation Division.

According to Assistant United States Attorney Samantha Spangler, who is prosecuting the case, the indictment alleges that DAWSON falsified her own 2005 federal income tax return by overstating her income earned, and falsified 24 other taxpayers' 2006 income tax returns by either overstating or understating their income earned, or overstating their federal income taxes withheld, or by overstating both their income earned and federal income taxes withheld. During the time that she committed these offenses, DAWSON was employed as a tax preparer.

Said United States Attorney Scott, "This case should be a warning to all tax preparers that they must honor their fiduciary responsibilities both to the taxpayer client and to taxpayers at large. Otherwise, the IRS will investigate and this office will not hesitate to prosecute them."

If convicted of all the charges, Dawson faces a maximum statutory penalty of five years in prison, a \$250,000 fine, and a three-year term of supervised release. However, the actual sentence will be imposed at the discretion of the court after considering the federal sentencing statutes and the Sentencing Guidelines, which take into account a number of factors.

The charges are only allegations and the defendant is presumed innocent until and unless proven guilty beyond a reasonable doubt.

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